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FIG. 1. EXCAVATION OF CAUSEWAY OF PYRAMID OF SESOSTRI I

THE EGYPTIAN EXPEDITION

IN this third year's work in Egypt on behalf of the Museum, the Egyptian expedition has continued the excavations on its concessions at the Pyramids of Lisht and at the Oasis of Kharga previously reported in the BULLETIN.

The staff of the expedition has been increased to a total of six members by the addition of an architect, Mr. W. J. Jones, who is engaged in the recording of the architectural material resulting from the work on both sites, and Mr. F. L. Unwin, who is assisting Mr. Davies in the copying of the painted Theban tombs at Sheikh Abd el Gurna, begun as an integral part of the expedition's work a year ago. Through a plan of coöperation with the Smithsonian Institution at Washington, the expedition has been fortunate in having, in its work in the field this year, the help of Dr. A. Hrdlicka, who has carried on an examination of the skeletal material resulting from the excavation of the cemeteries at both Lisht and Kharga, and whose interesting results are quoted below.

The year has been a notable one for the expedition owing to the visit of the President of the Museum, Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan. In two visits which he made to the work at Lisht, and in an inspection also of the excavations at Kharga, he was enabled to examine both the methods and progress of the work.

The active work of the year was begun at Lisht by Mr. Mace on November 20th, with the continuation of the clearing of the twelfth-dynasty tombs in the cemetery west of the Pyramid of Amenemhat I. This was carried on until the end of January, and resulted in the excavation of about fifty tombs, containing pottery, ornaments, and other objects, of types characteristic of the dynasty. The main programme for the season at Lisht had been the beginning of the excavation of the causeway and temple of the pyramid of Sesostri I, and on February 1st this was undertaken. In the work of the French expedition on this pyramid in 1894-6 the entrance-hall and colonnaded fore court of the temple had been cleared.¹ Beginning where that work had ended, our excavation was at first carried for one hundred meters down the causeway leading up from the Nile Valley to the pyramid-temple, and the construction of the causeway was laid bare (fig. 1). It was of limestone, and proved to have consisted of a roofed passage, 2.60 meters wide, the side walls painted at the bottom in a mottled red and black, in imitation of red granite, and decorated above with scenes in colored relief. The remains of this relief which were recovered represented at some points fishing scenes and the like, and at others captives taken in foreign campaigns. At intervals of every

¹Gautier-Jéquier, *Fouilles de Lisht, Caire*, 1902.



FIG. 2. VIEW EASTWARD FROM PYRAMID OF SESOSTRIS I OVER SITE OF PYRAMID-TEMPLE, AT BEGINNING OF EXCAVATIONS

ten meters on either side of the passage were niches, 1.30 meters deep and 1.10 meters wide, in which stood, originally, life-size Osiride statues of the king. One of these statues of Sesostris I was found near the top of the causeway, complete except for the feet, and fragments of others were found at various points. Several bases of the statues remained in position in their niches.

It was not intended during the present year to carry the excavation at this point beyond the clearing of a section of the causeway sufficiently large to determine the main characteristics of its construction, but trenches carried across at various points down the hillside, to the flat level of the Nile Valley, proved the continuation of the causeway-construction to that point. The investigation of the whole causeway, and its lower temple or gateway through which the people entered as they came up from the valley, will be carried on another year.

On the temple proper our clearing began on the south side of the entrance-hall and the fore court referred to above, and was gradually carried westward, to the rear part of the temple, through large mounds of surface débris under which the whole of

that part of the temple lay buried (figs. 2 and 3). Owing to the advantage offered for dumping the cars at a near-by point on the edge of the plateau to the southeast, the railway was extended after clearing the south side, and, by means of an embankment, carried across the temple to its northern side, where the work is now in progress. A force, varying from 150 to 250 men according to requirements, is being employed, and the work will be carried later into the season than usual in order to complete the excavation of the temple as far as possible.

The main features of the temple plan, however, have now become certain, and, in general, they conform to the arrangement found in pyramid-temples of the Old Empire, as, for example, that of Ne-user-re, at Abusir, excavated by the Deutsche Orient-Gesellschaft in 1902-4,¹ and that of Kha-Fre at Gizeh (the so-called Second Pyramid of Gizeh), excavated by the German Sieglin expedition the present year. In approaching the temple, coming up by the causeway, one passes through first the entrance-hall and then into the colonnaded court. On the outside of the entrance-hall, on the

¹ Borchardt, *Das Grabdenkmal des Königs Ne-user-re*. Leipzig, 1907.



FIG. 3. VIEW OVER PYRAMID-TEMPLE SHOWING PROGRESS OF EXCAVATIONS

south side, our excavations have shown also a chamber which probably served as a magazine for storing a part of the temple utensils. Beyond the colonnaded court the temple broadens out, and, through a doorway in the rear wall of the court, one entered the rear part of the temple, consisting of the sanctuary, magazine chambers, and other rooms. In one of these rooms we have found a central column-base of red granite and a massive red granite architrave, the latter inscribed on the front and back with the name of Sesostris.

Our excavation of the temple is also resulting in the recovery of a large amount of the colored relief-sculpture from the temple walls, details of which are shown in figs. 5-6. Its remarkable preservation of color and quality of modeling render it the most important material which has yet been found in illustration of Middle Empire relief-sculpture, and will place our Museum in a strong position in its representation on this side.

In its work at the Oasis of Kharga, the expedition has continued its excavation of the Christian Necropolis, and of the part of the ancient city of Hibis, known as Ain el Turba, begun last year. The full force of

men employed was about 140. This work has been carried out by Mr. Winlock, and at the same time Mr. Jones has undertaken the recording, through plans and drawings in elevation, of a series of the tomb-chapels in the necropolis representing the various types of construction. Mr. Winlock describes the progress of the work briefly as follows:

"On the Christian Necropolis the excavation, in the central portion of the cemetery, of the graves with low superstructures has been continued and a number of the larger tomb-chapels have also been cleared.

"At Ain el Turba the excavations have laid bare several new streets and houses built on a rocky knoll which, previous to their construction, had been the site of a cemetery with large brick-vaulted subterranean tombs (fig. 4). The finding of a hoard of bronze coins of the joint reign of Diocletian, Maximian, and Constantius in a cranny in a wall of one of the houses points to this part of Hibis being occupied as early as the last years of the third century A.D., while other coins from the work, both of last year and this, lead one to suppose it was still standing at the end of the fourth.



FIG. 4. PROGRESS OF EXCAVATIONS AT AIN EL TURBA, OASIS OF KHARGA

"The material found in this work at the Oasis supplements that of last season. Among the more interesting classes are the small household altars of limestone in the form of a column with a basin at the top for fire, and the plaster statuettes which are now known to us in several types from the numerous fragments discovered. One of the most typical is the seated male figure shown in the accompanying illustration (fig. 7). The drapery was colored and gilded originally, and in the left hand there are still traces of some bronze object. The figure was made in two parts; the torso was placed on top of a cubical throne, probably of wood, while the legs were attached independently in front. In addition, numerous stucco decorative figures from furniture have been found, as well as small bronzes of Osiris and Harpokrates, a new wall-painting representing three deities on horseback, terra-cotta lamps and pottery, and fragments of objects in glass and glaze."

From the valuable observations made by Dr. Hrdlicka on both the burials of the Roman and Early Christian period at Kharga and those of the Middle Empire at Lisht, the following facts may be briefly quoted:

"1. The Lisht tombs contain unusually homogeneous Egyptian people, of about the highest physical development they ever achieved. Only four foreign, broad skulls were found among over two hundred Egyptian, and no negro or detectable negro mixture. The broad crania are in all

probability Asiatic, from north of the Semitic region. Pathological observations showed frequency of injuries, with absence of a number of constitutional diseases. The adults had in many cases reached an advanced age.

"2. The Kharga graves showed people of rather small stature, mainly of a type indistinguishable from the Egyptian, but with rather considerable admixture of broad heads (nearly twenty per cent.). The graves of the Christian Necropolis give less of the foreign elements than those of Ain el Turba. Only a single female skull showed negro mixture. The pathological observations on these burials are of much interest.

"Observations made on the modern inhabitants of Kharga show that several important changes have taken place in the population of the oasis since the period represented by the Early Christian Necropolis (fourth to fifth century A.D.). There has been a great influx of negro blood, and of Semitic people (Arabs, etc.). Notwithstanding the incorporated new elements, the stature has remained small and the general physical development is not robust."

The successful outcome of the season's excavations is now completely assured, and with the end of the work, about August 1st, the results will be sent to the Museum to be placed on exhibition as promptly as conditions permit.

A. M. L.

PYRAMIDS OF LISHT,

May 15, 1909.



FIG. 5. OFFERING SCENE. DETAIL OF TEMPLE-RELIEF OF SESOSTRIS I



FIG. 6. HEAD OF OFFERING-BEARER. DETAIL FROM PAINTED TEMPLE-RELIEF OF SESOSTRIS I



FIG. 7. PLASTER STATUETTE, FROM AIN EL TURBA